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PUT STOMACH 'ON ICE'

Doctors Can Now 'Freeze Out' Ulcers

By JOHN TROAN
Scripps-Howard Science Writer

Putting a patient's stomach "on ice" can freeze out an ulcer, surgeons at the University of Minnesota reported today.

The doctors said the new technique, during which the stomach is "frozen hard as rock" for an hour, has worked well in all 24 cases treated this way during the past 13 months.

Dr. Owen H. Wangensteen, a world-famed surgeon, said the freezing banishes pain, "quite regularly" makes the ulcer disappear, and cuts production of the "corrosive" stomach acid that's suspected of making ulcers kick up.

But, he added, "only time will tell" whether the cure is permanent.

PROCEDURE

As explained in the Journal of the American Medical Association, this is what the doctors do:

After numbing the patient's throat with an anesthetic, they lower a balloon into the stomach.

Thru a double-barreled tube, pure alcohol and ice water are pumped in and out of the balloon for about an hour at temperatures ranging down to four degrees below zero.

This freezes the stomach. It also knocks the vagus nerve cold. This is the so-called "worry nerve" associated with excess output of stomach acid.

EASY TO EAT

An hour or two after this treatment, the doctors said, "the patient almost invariably will eat with relish." The stomach takes the food and passes it to the intestine without trouble.

The treated patients are permitted to eat just about anything. However, they are advised to take it easy on alcohol and drinks containing caffeine, such as coffee.

Dr. Wangensteen said freezing the stomach produces the same effects as cutting it out. Yet the procedure is so simple, he said, that "with more experience" doctors should be able to have an ulcer patient walk into a hospital, freeze his stomach for an hour and send him right back home. In fact this is exactly what Dr. Wangensteen did with one of his patients.

3 Boys Named to Marine School

Norman Melnikoff, Timothy C. Sumner and James D. Milton have been appointed from the District to the Merchant Marine Academy, the District Commissioners said today.

Norman, presently in the Army, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Melnikoff, 3639 Alton Place nw. James, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Milton, of 4919 Massachusetts-av nw, is a senior at Gonzaga College High School. Timothy, a senior at St. John's College High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard C. Sumner, 4716 Davenport-st nw.

Early Hours

Information offices of the Maryland - National Capital Park and Planning Commission will open each morning at 8 a. m.—one hour earlier—thru Sept. 30. The information service closes at 5 p. m.

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